

PASCOAG UTILITY DISTRICT - BOARD OF UTILITY COMMISSIONERS

MEETING MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Pascoag Utility District Board of Utility Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at 6:00 pm in the District office, Pascoag 253 Pascoag Main Street, Pascoag, RI.

Members Present: Chairman Albert Palmisciano, Commissioners William Mageau, Thomas Partridge, and Brian Choiniere

Members Absent: Ms. Ann Polacek, Dennis Whitman and Adrien Trudeau

Also in Attendance: Judith Allaire, Assistant General Manager; William Bernstein, General Counsel

Chairman Palmisciano opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Public Comment

3. Committee Comments

- Policy Subcommittee-this item is tabled for the new business**

section.

4. Good and Welfare of the District

A. PUC Data Request – Docket No. 1725

Ms. Allaire reviewed the customer shut off information. The average customer balance is around \$700.00. Ms. Allaire stated that zero residential standard customers were disconnected in the month of January. Pascoag Utility District sent out 300 disconnection notices during the month of January. Motion to receive and file made by Mr. Mageau, seconded by Mr. Partridge. The vote in favor was unanimous.

B. NYPA Firm Hydro

Pascoag Utility District is scheduled to receive firm hydro power through March. Mr. Partridge made a motion to receive and file, seconded by Mr. Choiniere. The vote in favor was unanimous.

C. ARRA appliance rebates

Ms. Allaire spoke about the ARRA funding that is coming into the State and will be used as an incentive for buying energy star appliances. The program will begin in March and will be administered through National Grid. The customer who purchases an energy star refrigerator, dishwasher or freezer will receive a \$150.00 rebate on top of what Pascoag Utility District rebates. Mr. Partridge made a motion to receive and file, seconded by Mr. Choiniere. The vote in favor was unanimous.

D. Statehouse Hearing-Renewable Energy

Ms. Allaire and Ms. Downs went to the Statehouse a few weeks ago to

attend a hearing on renewable energy.

E. Communications

An editorial was presented that featured Pascoag Utility District.

Motion to receive and file made by Mr. Partridge, seconded by Mr. Mageau. The vote in favor was unanimous.

F. Storm Report

Ms. Allaire stated that she did not have much to report about the blizzard because we did not get as much snow as was expected. The staff was prepared in case it developed into a major storm. There were no outages. Channel 10 was on site to follow the line crew around for the afternoon.

G. Update on Water Meter Project

Ms. Allaire stated that the meters have been ordered and should be arriving in the next few weeks. A test environment is in the process of being set up to train staff on. Beginning in early March, PUD will be sending out letters to customers to start setting up appointments to install meters.

H. 2010 NEPPA Conference

The 2010 NEPPA Conference will be held in Providence this year at the Renaissance Hotel. The golf tournament will be held at Kirkbrae Country Club.

I. Streetlight/Hydrant Billing

Pascoag Utility District has sent out its first batch of bills that included the streetlight fee for electric customers and the hydrant fee for water customers. There hasn't been a lot of feedback from customers at this time.

J. Water Losses

PUD's water loss has come in at 15%, which is average for the Water Department. The installation of the new AMR water meter system should also help to reduce water loss.

K. NIMS Update

Last month the Board voted to support the National Incident Management System which is a federal system that was adopted by the Town. By having all of the Town agencies adopt the NIMS it qualifies the Town for federal funds in the future. Along with the NIMS adoption there are also some requirements that the Pascoag Utility District has to meet such as field staff passing tests after attending classes on the NIMS. Ms. Allaire stated that PUD staff has completed all requirements at this time.

5. Approval of Minutes

- By Law Subcommittee Meeting- January 25, 2010**
- Regular BUC Meeting- January 25, 2010**

Mr. Partridge made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Mr. Choiniere. The vote in favor was unanimous.

6. Unfinished Business

10-02- Charter and By-Law Review

Staff is currently working on the Charter and By-Law changes. Staff will focus on working on the Charter first as it has to be submitted

into legislation this session.

7. New Business

10-06-Action Item: GM Position

Mr. Palmisciano stated that the Policy Subcommittee met and is recommending appointing two general managers. It is under the condition that this appointment only applies to the two current staff members (Ms. Allaire and Mr. Guertin) and for a trial basis of possibly 6 months. Mr. Mageau made a motion to table the meeting until the charter reflects the pluralizing of the word General Manager. This was seconded by Mr. Choiniere. The vote in favor was unanimous.

10-07-Blue Cross

Ms. Allaire stated that Blue Cross had accepted the 1099's and the Board would be insured. Mr. Palmisciano suggested that this issue be readdressed at budget time.

10-08-Status of Audit

Ms. Allaire stated that the closing audit had been completed and that she expected the draft financials for the March meeting.

10-09-Net Metering Tariff

Mr. Garille had submitted a draft to Division for review. He expects to have a technical session with Division prior to submission to the Commission.

8. Financial Reports

A. Electric Department Reports-not available

B. Water Department Reports-not available

9. Executive Session

To go into Executive Session for the purpose of expenditure of public funds pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(7). The minutes of said meeting shall remain confidential for as long as necessary pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5, until a majority of the Board shall vote to open said minutes as provided for an subject to the open meeting law.

Mr. Partridge made a motion to adjourn Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Choiniere. The vote in favor was unanimous.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Partridge made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Choiniere. The vote in favor was unanimous. Chairman Palmisciano adjourned the meeting at 7:01 pm.

Brian Choiniere, Secretary

Board of Utility Commissioners

Desarae Downs, Recording Secretary